



## Faith in Phil

One of the many unique things about Pennsylvania is that we rely on a rodent to predict our weather. On Sunday February 2nd Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow predicting six more weeks of winter. In his 139 predictions, only 20 times has Phil not seen his shadow. The consistency of repetition is staggering. Never the less, Ground Hog Day and the celebration on Gobblers Knob is famous, at least in part due to the impact that the film “Ground Hog Day” has had on the national attention of the celebrated holiday. The film of course is about a newscaster who mysteriously keeps living the same day again and again and again. Because he is reliving Feb 2nd in Punxsutawney there are many humorous scenes involving Phil and the beautiful town of Punxy. One of the things Phil (the newscaster played by actor Bill Murry) says during the movie is that every day is the same. The repetition is what becomes so disheartening and worrisome for Phil.

Repetition can be both comforting and disheartening, it can be a powerful tool and terrible crutch. Knowing what to expect can be helpful, and repetition has a way of embedding things into our hearts and our minds. At the same time repetition can be boring, it can cause disengagement, it can create apathy and work against the intended meaning or purpose. As Presbyterians we know a thing or two about repetition and doing things over and over again. Like the old light bulb joke: Q: How many Presbyterians does it take to change a light bulb? A: Change?

Sometimes we do get complacent in our faith. Sometimes that complacency comes in how we worship, in how we read or study the scriptures, in how we do bible studies, in how we sing songs, in how we serve our community, in how we think about and talk about our faith. Sometimes we are complacent by thinking that we already know everything the scripture says, after all we’ve read it before. But the thing is, repetition is almost never the same. In the movie “Ground Hog Day” Bill Murry didn’t relive identical days, each day was different because he was different, even though they were all Feb 2nd. On one day he learned to

play the piano, on another how to ice sculpt, on another he drove on rail road tracks and hit mail boxes with his car. Some days he stepped in the big puddle off the sidewalk, other days he stepped over it, but each day was different. The same is true in our faith. Each worship is different because we come to worship from different places with different needs and joys and concerns. Each time we read the scriptures they are different, not in words but in meaning, as God speaks to our current life and situation. Each encounter with a sister or brother in faith is unique, a new opportunity to plant seeds or water the spirit of faith. I know sometimes things can feel complacent, and when they are we must guard against that feeling, but things are rarely ever truly the same.

All of this to say that even in the steadiness of our faith, we know there are a myriad of ways that the Spirit works in us. Not so that we can keep things the same, but so we can see the different ways God works in our lives. This is not an argument to keep things the way they are, nor is it an advocacy for change; it is a reminder that God works in us always, in the repetition and the uniqueness of our lives. Philippians (PHIL) chapter 1 verses 3-6 says, “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” In the movie, Phil, kept working to improve his life and better his life by bettering other people’s lives. In the end that made all the difference. For us, life within the church is not reliving the same over and over, it is the work of God on our lives! It is learning to see God in the differences and in all of God’s grace filled ways. It is seeing the beauty and comfort in things being familiar and repetitive; and it is knowing the joy and excitement of that which is different and challenging. God works in all things and in all ways. So remember: “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion...” And our lives will never be the same again!

Blessings,  
Pastor Brian



Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God. Everyone who loves has become God's child and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love

**Sunday  
March 16**

**gem**  
greater europa mission

Join us Sunday morning, March 16 as we hear from Greg Nichols, our ministry partner with Great Europe Mission.

**MomsUP**

**Moms lifting Moms UP**

**Where: Mars United Presbyterian Church**

**232 Crowe Avenue, Mars, PA**

**When: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month**

**10 a.m. - Noon**

**Who: Mothers of kids ages 0-6.**

**What to Expect:**

**SMALL GROUPS:** to meet other moms and develop new friendships.

**CHILDCARE:** qualified and loving care for our little ones.

**For more information contact**

**Ashley Hauser.**

**Cell Phone: 1-814-270-9101**

**Email:**

**ashleyhauser90@yahoo.com**

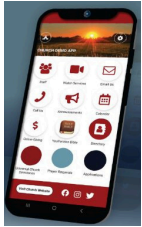


My School Preschool held a great open house at the beginning of the month. Four out of the five classes are full.

If you know of a student interested in My School Preschool, let them know soon!

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## Church Directory



Our church directory is well underway. It will still be several months until we receive the finished product and access to our new church directory app.

If you were unable to get your photo taken by the photographer it is not too late to be part of the directory. Please email a high-resolution photo and submit \$15 to the church office. Date has been extended.

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*Palm*  
**SUNDAY**

*Easter*  
**EGG  
HUNT**



**Make plans to join  
us on**

**Sunday, April 13 -  
Children's Bell**

**Choir, Palm**

**Sunday worship,  
Easter Egg Hunt,  
and yummy food.**

# Children's Bell Choir

Mars UP and My School Preschool

Would like to invite your child to learn simple music skills using a fun, interactive, hands on approach. Children ages three and up are welcome to join this years Bell Choir!

There is no cost to join.



## Rehearsal on Wednesdays

March 19

March 26

April 2

April 9

## Rehearsal Time

4:15-5:00pm

## Performance Date

Sunday, April 13

10:00am @ Mars

UP Sanctuary



Those interested can sign up by contacting Pastor Brian ([Pastor@mars-UP.org](mailto:Pastor@mars-UP.org)) or Heidi Beahm. This is not just for preschool aged children, older children are encouraged to participate too! To register we will need child's name, age, and parent/guardian contact information

# Lenten LUNCHES

**Friday's  
3/7 - 4/18**



March 7 @ MUP  
 March 14 @ Penn Mar  
 March 21 @ St. John  
 March 28 @ Penn Mar  
 April 4 @ St. John  
 April 11 @ Penn Mar  
 April 18 @ MUP

## Dates for your Calendar

Date	Event	Time
February 2	Youth Group & Kids Club	1-2:30
February 16	Youth Group Service Event	1-2:30
March 2	Youth Group & Kid's Club	1-2:30
March 5	Ash Wednesday- Walk in Communion Service	5:30-6:45 pm
March 9	Church Clean up/out Day & Lunch	After Worship
March 16	Greater Europe Mission	Worship

## DATES TO KNOW

- February 2 & March 2 Youth Group/Kids Club
- February 16 - Youth Group Service Event
- March 5 - Ash Wednesday
- March 16 Greater Europe Missions in worhsip
- March 16 Youth Group
- Visit our website for a full color, extended newsletter

# FEBRUARY

jesus  
loves  
you

## Contact Us

Stop by the office, email or give us a call for more information.

### Mars UP Church

232 Crowe Ave

PO Box 805

Mars, PA 16046

(724) 625-1365

[marsup@mars-up.org](mailto:marsup@mars-up.org)

Visit us on the web at

[www.mars-up.org](http://www.mars-up.org)

We're also on Facebook!!

Join us for Worship  
Sunday's at 10:00am

Prayer Chain:  
[pastor@mars-up.org](mailto:pastor@mars-up.org)

Mars UP Church  
232 Crowe Ave  
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